

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /083 W

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R 141000Z MAR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1751

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 267

CAIRO PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF IRAQI-IRANIAN ACCORD

REF: BAGHDAD 248

1. IN SUMMARY: GOI GENERATING CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE
WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR IRAQI-IRANIAN ACCORD. IN FACT,
MOST ELEMENTS OF POPULATION, INCLUDING MILITARY AND SHIA
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COMMUNITY, ARE REPORTEDLY PLEASED. LACK OF ENTHUSIASM

VISIBLE FROM ICP AND USSR, REGIME HAS DECLARED HALT IN FIGHTING AT REQUEST OF SHAH AND AMNESTY FOR KURDS UNTIL APRIL 1. IT HAS, HOWEVER, RULED OUT ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH BARZANI AND AMY BELIEVED PREPARING FOR SPRING OFFENSIVE IN HOPE OF ENDING INSURGENCY ONCE AND FOR ALL. GOI INSISTS IT DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. GOI FOLLOWING UP MARCH 6 IRAQI-IRANIAN ACCORD WITH MASSIVE MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR IT BY BAATH PARTY, POULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONAL FRONT. NATIONAL FRONT COUNCIL MET UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF SADDAM HUSSEIN MARCH 11 AND ENDORSED ACCORD AS "IN LINE WITH IRAQ'S STEADFAST ANTI-IMPERIALIST POLICY AND AFFIRMED ITS FULL COMMITMENT TO ITS PROVISIONS." IN FACT, ICP APPEARS TO BE DISTINCTLY COOL ABOUT ACCORD AND COMMUNIST TARIQ ASH-SHAAB HAS NOT YET COMMENTED ON IT, NOR HAS MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS BEEN RECEIVED FROM USSR.

3. RCC HAS PASSED DECREE PARDONING ALL KURDS WHO SURRENDER TO IRAQI AUTHORITIES BY APRIL 1. PRESS CLAIMS THA GROUPS OF KURDS HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AMNESTY, BUT E HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS CONTENTION. BAATH ATH-THAWRA OF MARCH 12 "CATEGORICALLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY" RULED OUT ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH BARZANI CLIQUE.

4. CRITICISM OF IRAQN HAS DISAPPEARED FROM PRESS. IN FACT ON MARCH 8 SEMI-OFFICIAL BAGHDAD OBSERVER PUBLISHED ARTICLE WHICH INTER ALIA ACCUSED IRAN OF "SUPPRESSING MASSES" AND "PLICING GULF ON BEHALF OF OIL CARTEL", NEXT DAY PUBLISHED "CLARIFICATION" STATING ARTICLE "WAS NOT INTENDED TO APPEAR SATURDAY".

5. MEDIA ALSO HIGHLIGHTING ECONOMIC EFFORT BEING MADE IN NORTH. ON MARCH 10 MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS CARRYING OUT ROADS, PUBLIC SERVICES AND HOUSING VALUED AT 75 MILLION DOLLARS IN KURDISTAN.

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6. IBRAHIM AL-WALI, DG OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT MFA, WHO ACCOMPANIED SADDAM TO ALGIERS, TOLD ME MARCH 12, THAT GOI BELIEVED IT HAD MADE MAJOR CONCESSION ON SHATT AL-ARAB. HE SAID IRAN MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS NOT OUT OF WEAKNESS, BUT FROM DESIRE TO RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS WITH IRAN. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IRAQ IS DETERMINED TO ADHERE SCRUPULOUSLY TO ACCORD BUT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER IRAQI CONCESSIONS. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR MET WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN ON MARCH 10 AND

MARCH 12, PRESUMABLY IN PRPARATION FOR MEETING OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS IN TEHRAN MARCH 15.

7. COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT IRAQ IS ANXIOUS
TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY TO IMPLEMENT ALL ASPECTS OF ACCORD.
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